

Public Works Committee
Minutes, Tuesday, August 3, 2010
Town Room, Town Hall

Attending---

Committee: Steve Braun (chair), Michael Cann, Christine Gray-Mullen, Charlie Moran. Guilford Mooring (Superintendent). Diana Stein (Select Board).

Members of the general public: Barb April, Matthew Corcoran, Ava Frakin, Janet Keller, Otto Stein.

1. Administrative

a. Minutes of June 29, 2010 meeting were Approved: 4-0-0.

b. Next meeting set: Tuesday, September 7, 7:00.

2. Updates

a. Eastman Lane roundabout project is moving quickly. The goal is to have the roundabout driveable by September 1.

b. Rt. 116 repaving: The grinder will be here this week.

c. Guilford Mooring reported corrected figures for police and flag details at road sites: Police detail \$44/hour; flagman \$34/hour. He reported further that at the Atkins corner construction site we've spent 187K so far: 43K payroll; 86K material. 50K equipment.

3. Old Business

a. Discussion and vote on Sand Hill Road construction/re-construction work: Charlie Moran voiced concerns about the cost/benefit of the proposed sidewalk on the north side of Sand Hill Road extending from Pine Street to Puffer's Circle. Christine Gray-Mullen agreed. Guilford Mooring said that the cost would be c. 8K, and 4 extra trees would have to come down. Public comment from residents was neutral. Steve Braun was reluctant to change the plan that had been arrived at with so much input from abutters and local residents. Mike Cann favored keeping the road width at 18'; Guilford Mooring noted that the subdivision standard is 22'; the proposed 20' width is a compromise (acceptable if Nat. Forest, state park road). Even at 20', the road will not meet town, fed, state standards, and at 20', it is too narrow for a center stripe. Steve Braun: widening to 20' seems a good compromise between safety and aesthetics; Janet Keller: when will the road work begin? GM: soon as we can. Barb April: not convinced that sidewalk is needed. Matt Corcoran: snow from the road will be plowed onto proposed sidewalk. GM: yes—snow goes on sidewalk. Barb: what will happen to the rest of the road? GM: skim coat, this year. Ava Frakin: criteria are safety, life of car; Otto Stein: should be considered a scenic road, and should not cut any trees.

Moved: to recommend the plan as presented, “Proposed Roadway Improvements, Sand Hill Road, Pine Street to Puffers Circle,” dated June 2009, with the addition of the proposed skim-coat for the portion of Sand Hill Road extending from Puffers Circle to State Street.

Approved: 4-0-0

4. New Business

- a. Public hearing on University Drive improvements, including the reconstruction of the entrance to the Big Y parking lot on University Drive. The current plan calls for re-alignment of entrance, installation of a traffic signal, and addition of a turning lane onto Rt. 9. Guilford Mooring described the plan and responded to Committee questions about traffic flow at this end of University Drive and then to questions about traffic flow on University Drive generally, with special attention to the Amity Street intersection.
- b. Public Hearing on Wildwood Elementary School, “Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program” Improvements. Guilford Mooring described the program, and walked the Committee through the TEC consultants’ recommendations: improvements to the Strong Street-East Pleasant Street intersection, the addition of a sidewalk connecting Cottage Street and the existing sidewalk between the Middle School and Wildwood, a raised crosswalk in the Wildwood parking lot, and a bicycle shelter at the Wildwood school. Committee members thought that the existing sidewalk on the south side of Strong Street extending from East Pleasant Street to the Wildwood School was in need of improvement and should be included in the plan; GM suggested that sidewalks on Red Gate Lane and Hills Street would be important as well.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec’y pro tem.

Documents referred to:

“Proposed Roadway Improvements, Sand Hill Road, Pine Street to Puffers Circle.” Available at <http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1342>

University Drive Improvements, plan dated July 2010. Plans available at <http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1352>

Wildwood Elementary School, “Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program.” Consultants’ report, including recommended improvements, available at <http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1351>